Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended)

A method of incrementally refining queries and updating query results without requiring a user to provide an explicit indicator of query submission, comprising:

defining one or more query related character patterns that do not include an explicit indicator of query submission;

monitoring entry of query defining characters by a user to detect entry of a defined query related character pattern;

providing the user with one or more suggested query replacement ~~refinement~~ options each time a defined query related character pattern is detected without requiring the user to provide the explicit indicator of query submission,

wherein the one or more suggested query replacement ~~refinement~~ options including ~~includes at least one of (a) a synonym suggestion for replacing the detected defined query related character pattern in a query, or (b)~~ a broadening suggestion ~~for replacing the detected defined query related character pattern in the query to broaden the query,~~

~~wherein~~ the one or more suggested query replacement options beginning with a character pattern other than ~~neither the synonym suggestion nor the broadening suggestion begins with~~ the query related character pattern; and

providing the user with an updated query result each time a defined query related character pattern is detected without requiring the user to provide the explicit indicator of query submission.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended)

The method of claim 1 further comprising tracking results selected by one or more users and adjusting the suggested query replacement refinement options based on a history of results previously selected by the one or more users.

4. (Original)

The method of claim 1 further comprising tracking results selected by one or more users and adjusting an order of the updated query result list based on a history of results previously selected by the one or more users.

5. (Original)

The method of claim 1 further comprising providing a visual indicator to the user when an updated query result list is provided to the user.

6. (Original)

The method of claim 1 wherein one defined query related character pattern is a string of characters followed by a space.

7. (Currently Amended)

The method of claim 1 wherein one query related character pattern is a string of characters followed by a ~~predefined~~ <u>predetermined</u> time delay before additional characters are entered.

8-9. (Canceled).

10. (Original)

The method of claim 1 further comprising providing a user input that allows the user to adjust the query related character patterns.

11. (Previously presented)

The method of claim 1 further comprising changing the defined query related character patterns in response to a change in a connection speed at a client-server connection used to provide the user with updated query results, wherein the query related character patterns are defined to occur more frequently as the connection speed increases.

12. (Original)

Computer readable media comprising computer-executable instructions for performing the method of claim 1.

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13. (Currently Amended)

A method of incrementally refining queries and updating query results without requiring a user to provide an explicit indicator of query submission, comprising:

providing a user with one or more query <u>replacement</u> ~~refinement~~ options as the user enters query defining characters, wherein the one or more query <u>replacement</u> ~~refinement~~ options includes ~~at least one of (a) a synonym suggestion for replacing the query defining characters in a query, or (b)~~ a broadening suggestion ~~for replacing the query defining characters in the query to broaden the query~~, <u>wherein the one or more query replacement options does not begin with</u> ~~wherein neither the synonym suggestion nor the broadening suggestion begins with~~ the query defining characters;

detecting entry of a query defining word by the user without requiring the user to provide the explicit indicator of query submission; and

providing the user with an updated query result each time entry of a query defining word is detected without requiring the user to provide the explicit indicator of query submission,

wherein the query defining word includes a string of characters followed by a ~~predefined~~ <u>predetermined</u> time delay before additional characters are entered by the user.

14. (Currently Amended)

The method of claim 13 further comprising tracking queries entered by one or more users and adjusting the suggested query replacement ~~refinement~~ options based on a history of queries previously entered by the one or more users.

15. (Currently Amended)

The method of claim 13 further comprising tracking results selected by one or more users and adjusting the suggested query replacement ~~refinement~~ options based on a history of results previously selected by the one or more users.

16. (Original)

The method of claim 13 further comprising tracking results selected by one or more users and adjusting an order of the updated query result list based on a history of results previously selected by the one or more users.

17. (Original)

The method of claim 13 wherein one defined query related character pattern is a string of characters followed by a space.

18-19. (Canceled).

20. (Original)

Computer readable media comprising computer-executable instructions for performing the method of claim 13.

21. (Currently Amended)

A method of incrementally refining queries and updating query results without requiring a user to provide an explicit indicator of query submission, comprising:

providing a user with <u>replacement</u> ~~auto-complete~~ alternatives as the user enters query defining characters;

detecting entry of a completed query defining word by the user;

providing the user with a query result list each time a query defining word is detected without requiring the user to provide the explicit indicator of query submission;

providing the user with query <u>replacement</u> ~~refinement~~ options related to the query defining word without requiring the user to provide the explicit indicator of query submission, wherein the query <u>replacement</u> ~~refinement~~ options include ~~at least one of (a) a synonym suggestion for replacing the query defining word in a query, or (b)~~ a broadening suggestion ~~for replacing the query defining word in the query to broaden the query~~, wherein <u>at least one of the query replacement options does not begin with</u> ~~neither the synonym suggestion nor the broadening suggestion begins with~~ the query defining word;

determining whether the user selects a provided query <u>replacement</u> ~~refinement~~ option;

providing the user with an updated query result list when it is determined that the user has selected a provided query <u>replacement</u> <s>refinement</s> option; and

providing a visual indicator to the user each time the updated query result list is provided to the user.

22. (Canceled).

23. (Original)

The method of claim 21 wherein the updated query result list includes result listings from a user hard drive, an intranet server, and an internet server.

24. (Original)

Computer readable media comprising computer-executable instructions for performing the method of claim 21.

25. (Currently Amended)

In a computer system including a display, a user input facility, and an application for presenting a user interface on the display, a user interface that updates query results without requiring a user to provide an explicit indicator of query submission comprising:

a query entry text box for entering query defining characters;

a query refinement option list [[of]] including at least one user selectable query replacement ~~refinement~~ option[[s]] that is incrementally updated as a query is entered into the query entry text box without requiring the user to provide the explicit indicator of query submission, wherein the user selectable query replacement ~~refinement~~ option[[s]] includes ~~at least one of (a) a synonym~~ ~~suggestion for replacing the query defining characters in a query, or (b)~~ a broadening suggestion ~~for replacing the query defining characters in the query~~ ~~to broaden the query~~, and

wherein the query replacement option begins with characters other than ~~neither the synonym suggestion nor the broadening suggestion~~ ~~begins with~~ the query defining characters;

a query result list that is incrementally updated as a query is entered into the query entry text box without requiring the user to provide the explicit indicator of query submission; and

a visual indicator that indicates when the query result list is updated.

26. (Canceled).

27. (Original)

The user interface of claim 25 further comprising a user selectable search icon for manually executing a query defined by characters in the query entry text box.

28. (Currently Amended)

The user interface of claim 25 wherein the query <u>replacement</u> ~~refinement~~ option list is semi-transparent.

29. (Original)

The user interface of claim 25 wherein the query result list is animated for a predetermined period of time after the query result list is updated.

30. (Currently Amended)

A system for incrementally refining queries and updating query results without requiring a user to provide an explicit indicator of query submission, comprising:

      a user input device enabling input of query defining text characters;

      a display;

      a data content that is searchable;

      a network connection for accessing at least a portion of the data content;

      a memory in which machine instructions are stored; and

a processor that is coupled to the user input device, to the display, to the data content, to the network connection, and to the memory, the processor executing the machine instructions to carry out a plurality of functions, including:

defining one or more query related character patterns that do not include an explicit indicator of query submission;

monitoring entry of query defining characters by a user to detect entry of a defined query related character pattern;

searching the data content and providing the user with an updated query result when a defined query related character pattern is detected without requiring the user to provide the explicit indicator of query submission;

providing the user with query <u>replacement</u> ~~refinement~~ options related to the detected defined query related character pattern without requiring the user to provide the explicit indicator of query submission, wherein the query <u>replacement</u> ~~refinement~~ options include ~~at least one of (a) a synonym suggestion for replacing the detected defined query related character pattern in a query, or (b)~~ a broadening suggestion ~~for replacing the detected defined query related character pattern in the query to broaden the query~~, and wherein <u>the broadening suggestion begins with a character pattern that is different from</u> ~~neither the synonym suggestion nor the broadening suggestion begins with~~ the query related character pattern; and

changing the defined query related character patterns in response to a change in a connection speed at the network connection, ~~wherein~~ the query related character patterns [[are]] defined to occur more frequently as the connection speed increases.

31. (Original)

The system of claim 30 wherein the searchable database resides on one or more remote computers and data used to define the one or more query related character patterns resides on a user terminal.

32. (Original)

The system of claim 30 wherein the data content includes data stored on a user hard drive, data stored on an intranet server, and data stored on an internet server.

33. (Currently Amended)

The method of claim 1 wherein ~~the synonym suggestion further includes a synonym icon and wherein~~ the broadening suggestion further includes a broadening icon.

34. (Currently Amended)

The method of claim 13 wherein ~~the synonym suggestion further includes a synonym icon and~~ wherein the broadening suggestion further includes a broadening icon.

35. (Currently Amended)

The method of claim 21 wherein ~~the synonym suggestion further includes a synonym icon and~~ wherein the broadening suggestion further includes a broadening icon.

36. (Currently Amended)

The user interface of claim 25 wherein ~~the synonym suggestion further includes a synonym icon and wherein~~ the broadening suggestion further includes a broadening icon.

37. (Currently Amended)

The system of claim 30 wherein ~~the synonym suggestion further includes a synonym icon and wherein~~ the broadening suggestion further includes a broadening icon.

38. (Currently Amended)

The system of claim 1 wherein ~~neither the synonym suggestion nor~~ the broadening suggestion <u>does not include</u> ~~includes~~ the query related character pattern.

39. (New)

The system of claim 1 further comprising:

replacing the one or more query related character patterns with at least one of the one or more suggested query replacement options.

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